



IN REPLY REFER TO:

# United States Department of the Interior

## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

1011 E. Tudor Rd.

Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6199

**COPY FOR YOUR  
INFORMATION**

SEP 26 2006

AFES/MMM

Mr. Jason Charton  
Senior Environmental Coordinator  
700 G Street, ATO-1446  
P.O. Box 100360  
Anchorage, Alaska 99510-0360

Dear Mr. Charton:

This responds to ConocoPhillips Alaska Inc. (CPAI) letter dated September 7, 2006, requesting a Letter of Authorization for the Incidental Take of polar bears and Pacific walrus during the Pike Shallow hazard and Archeological Survey near Cross Island. On August 2, 2006, final regulations that authorize the non-lethal, incidental, unintentional take of small numbers of polar bears and Pacific walrus during year-round oil and gas industry exploration, development, and production operations in the Beaufort Sea and adjacent northern coast of Alaska were issued for a period of five years. In accordance with these regulations, enclosed is a LOA (06-06) that allows CPAI to take small numbers of polar bears and Pacific walrus incidental to activities occurring doing the Pike Surveys. This project may include activities involving 2-D seismic, seismic profiling, side scan sonar, sub-bottom profiler, multi-beam bathymetry, and magnetometer use.

Polar bear conservation has benefited from monitoring programs associated with the Incidental Take program since 1993. Monitoring serves to assess the effect of industrial activities on polar bears by evaluating trends and effects of bear encounter rates, take frequency, as well as the location and timing of encounters. In addition, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) believes that monitoring and protection measures for marine mammals described in CPAI's Polar bear interaction plan are appropriate. In addition, Service biologists are available for consultation if questions or concerns arise during the project period at the phone numbers listed below and noted in your interaction plan.

Mr. Jason Charton

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This authorization is issued in accordance with our regulations listed at 71 FR 43926, dated August 2, 2006. Please review these regulations. Should you have any further questions contact Mr. Craig Perham of our Marine Mammals Management Office at (907) 786-3800 or 786-3810.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rosa Meehan", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rosa Meehan, Ph.D.  
Chief, Marine Mammals Management

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Richard Shideler, ADF&G  
LE  
FFWFO

MMM

ISSUED: September 27, 2006  
EXPIRES: November 1, 2006

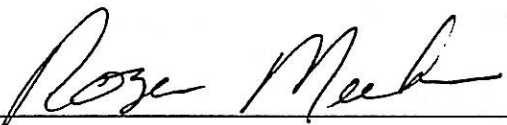
LETTER OF AUTHORIZATION  
(06-06)

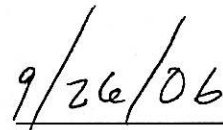
ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc. (CPAI) is hereby authorized to take small numbers of polar bears and Pacific walrus incidental to activities occurring during the Pike Shallow hazard and Archeological Survey near Cross Island. This project may include activities involving 2-D seismic, seismic profiling, side scan sonar, sub-bottom profiler, multi-beam bathymetry, and magnetometer use. This also includes contractors of CPAI performing CPAI-approved work under the scope of operations to be conducted. Authorization is subject to the following conditions:

1. The polar bear interaction plan is approved and all provisions, unless noted specifically, are incorporated into this Letter of Authorization by reference. A copy of the polar bear interaction plan must be available on site for all personnel.
2. CPAI Operations Managers, or their designates, will be fully aware, understand, and capable of implementing the conditions of this authorization.
3. Intentional take is prohibited under this authorization.
4. This authorization is valid only for those activities identified in the request for a Letter of Authorization dated September 7, 2006.
5. Polar bear monitoring, reporting, and survey activities will be conducted in accordance with 50 CFR 18, section 18.128. The basic monitoring and reporting requirements follow:
  - cooperate with the Fish and Wildlife Service, and other designated Federal, State, or local agencies to monitor the impacts of oil and gas exploration activities on polar bears and Pacific walrus;

- designate a qualified individual or individuals to observe, record, and report the effects of the activity on polar bears and Pacific walrus within 24 hours of visual observation;
- at the discretion of the Fish and Wildlife Service, allow the Fish and Wildlife Service to place an observer on the site to monitor the impacts of the activity on polar bears;
- submit an annual monitoring report to the Marine Mammals Management Office, which will be received by January 15, 2007.

6. This authorization expires November 1, 2006.

  
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Chief, Marine Mammals Management

  
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Date